

PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY,  
BY THE

AMERICAN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY,

116 Office, No. 30 Nassau Street, New York.

THREE DOLLARS PER ANNUM.

AARON M. POWELL, Editor.

WESDELL PHILLIPS, Special Editorial Contributor.

For article Advertising and Club terms see Fourth page.

FIFTY-SIXTH ANNIVERSARY

OF THE AMERICAN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

A previous announcement, the Ameri-

can Anti-Slavery Society celebrated its thirty-sixth

anniversary on Tuesday of last week, May 11th, at

11 a.m. There was a goodly gathering of

the audience showed that the Anti-

Slavery had not lost their attraction for

the most earnest young men and women,

and their inspiration, or, haply, consecration,

battle of life.

The exercises were commenced by a voluntary

man, by Mr. SIGISWOLD LASAR, who kindly

and his very acceptable services, and

interspersed the speaking with excellent

All the conclusion of the voluntary, the meeting

called to order by WESDELL PHILLIPS, the

President of the Society, who said:

"I am one of you, at the opening of the

fifth Anniversary of the American Anti-

Slavery, congratulating you especially

the very encouraging auspices under which we

are in the Thirty-sixth year of our existence,

which have given to every sign of the

our side. In conforming with the custom

so far from its commencement, I invite

the name of the one who feels moved to engage

a special prayer to open our meeting with an

an offering to the Throne of Grace.

Prayer was offered by Rev. WM. GOODELL, after

the President, in the absence of the Treasurer,

read the following abstract of his report:

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

"Account of the American Anti-Slavery Society

from May 1st, 1868, to May 1st, 1869.

C.

"Received from subscriptions to 'STAN-

DARD' and donations. \$12,414.05

"Received from old account. 1,217.20

\$13,631.23

Dr.

"Expended for publication of 'STAN-

DARD', office, and other expenses. 11,761.88

1,869.35

"Total \$13,631.23

"On hand. \$765.00

1,860.35

"Total \$2,624.35

"Series of resolutions prepared by the Execu-

"Committee, were then read. [These reso-

"nutes were printed last week].

ADDRESS OF WENDELL PHILLIPS.

"A moment ago, I congratulated

"the American Anti-Slavery Society

"in suspicious circumstances under which we

"are together this year; on the prospect of a

"great achievement of all the results at which

"we are at the achievement of that political equality

"which is at once the promised guaranty of, and

"the solace, all other results—the seed-plot, the

"the weapon, by which a class may vindicate

"and achieve all other privileges and

"happiness."

"Those of you who have been accustomed to all

"these years after year well remember the cir-

"stances under which we gathered here

"ago. I do not refer to the mobs of the

"mob; I do not refer to the years when we

"drove across the ferry to Brooklyn; I do

"not refer to the years when we were driven to

"Syracuse, even to hold a peaceful

"assembly; every thoughtful man regarded

"signs as ominous, in a certain sense. We

"broke up the crust of indifference. Our

"share had gone so deep that we really had

"the living dead, and it was very

"our progress had been so vast and our blows

"to the life that the enemy was marshaled

"at his forces to put us down; and when the

"calls out all his reserves, when the man

"is a general of a nation in which he can think

"that the question itself is knocking at the

"door, for truth always floats further on

"the air than a mob that the most earnest and

"bold can carry it. We always knew that

"Calhoun and Marshal Ryders were

"as much, unwillingly, for the progress of

"slavery as in William Lloyd Garrison. The

"the voice of the rebound, and you may

"calculate the strength of the blow by the

"rebound. But there were times when

"the mere quiet—times—silent meetings—

"we could hardly step off our platform without

"encountering an enemy, when the Government

"had itself a perpetual and indefeasible obstacle

"to our cause; for an enemy fights, but

"it does not fight to put to fight; it had

"to sit still; when we felt the church as our

"the work to do? The roots are deep; there

"is a conclusion. The enemy is encamped,

"a foregone conclusion. The people who have

"left us are in Spain. We have got the army and

"we have got wealth and habit, we have got

"the strength of the blood and the strength of the

"we have got all the great and all the selfish elements of civilization on our side. Why do you think the public peace, when you cannot even make a ripple?" I remember those days well. I remember especially the series of meetings in Philadelphia, when the city press flung just that criticism, after we had quitted the city, upon our movement. To-day, you can hardly step off the platform without meeting a man who says—"Why, what under heaven is there left for you to do? Where do you find a pretence for coming together? What right have you to the name of Anti-Slavery? I cannot see for the life of me where you can find enough to interest yourselves in it." It is a great change. It is a glorious revolution. Every thing that is respectable in literature is on our side. No journal of any character that does not, at the basis of its argument, no master as what is its nature, take for granted that the anti-slavery movement has either accomplished its whole pledge or is near it, that there is no necessity for the movement at all. The Church? Last night, I had some ladies arguing with me on the Church. The only other thing that I can say is, the church had done the work. We did not see much of the church, or much of its sanctity, but we used to prophecy that when the work was done, the religious organization would come in and say—"Don't you know I did that? I was doing it all the time." Singular how it hid its light in a corner, under a bushel! The church is only the full moon reflection of fashion, literature, and the State; and to-day what in our country is the most noticeable, the most marvelous and the most important point is, that the government, from the President in the White House down through all its channels, is on our side. (Applause.)

"The tools to him who can use them." If the man who sits behind me (FREDERICK DOUGLASS), having managed our affairs with the Empire of Brazil in a manner which secures the utmost praise of diplomats, shall come home unemployed, who knows but that he will succeed the successor of Mr. Moller at the Court of St. James? (Applause.) We have lived to see infinitely stranger things than that happen. That would be but a ripple on the surface of affairs.

"What I want to impress upon Abolitionists, therefore, is, that even with the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment, our work is not done.

"When that comes (God hasten it!) it may be the fact that the pledge of the Anti-slavery organization will be succeeded the successor of Mr. Moller at the Court of St. James? (Applause.)

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will vanish away, and everywhere, in the school and in the college, the black man and woman, as the white man and wife, will have access to all that makes human life worth living, because no door to any human being is shut to anybody on account of color or account of sex.

This is my word here to-day, Mr. President. All I wished to say was simply this, that while we have much to thank God and congratulate ourselves on the wonderful way in which Infinite Wisdom has led us, during forty years in the wilderness, toward the land of Canaan, there still remains this work for every true man and woman, to so change the public sentiment, that every human being shall recognize in every other human being, irrespective of sex or color, one entitled to all to which any human being can be, because he or she is a human being. (Applause).

ADDRESS OF JAMES M. SIMMS.

It is really very gratifying to me, my friends, to present to-day, for the first time in my life, at an annual meeting of this noble Society. I do not think that it should be more gratifying to me than to the Society that I am here. My presence here is really an evidence of the greatest progress that has been made and the extent of the work accomplished by the Society. I say this when I reflect from whence I have come to be here among you. I have been coming for twenty-two years, and I am here. (Applause). It was a long journey; the way was rugged; there were mountains of obstacles to be removed before I could reach here, but it has been done, for I am here. From the depths of my soul I can say I am here to rejoice. I feel happy, happier than I ever expected to feel since twenty years ago, though not happier than I had hoped.

Had I the time, or were it necessary to tell of the obstacles through which I have come, the story might be冗ious, some of it, but I think the President has satisfied you in that direction by his remarks. But, like yourselves, I have reason to be happy, reason to rejoice, when I remember that my fathers and mothers in slavery have sat down and pictured to me the condition they were in, when after their hard day's till in the field, perhaps even after having passed through a scourging by the lash, they have sat patiently in their huts and waited until 12 o'clock at night, when the master and overseer were asleep, and then gone down four miles into the swamp, and there, by the light of pine knots, enjoyed the privilege of praying to the God of the oppressed. They dared not do it within the limits of the plantation, they dared not do it in the hearing of the Christian white race. I have come from there, where I was permitted to stand up and preach the Gospel in part only, and find myself here-to-day where I can stand up and speak freely, without fear of the Ku-Klux, what is the depths of my heart.

My soul has been born, and since I rejoice, I rejoice in my birth, and realizing the fact that I am among the champions of the nation's liberty; not the black man's right only, but the nation's liberty; for it was impossible. It was inconsistent with right and justice, it was inconsistent with the laws of God, that this nation should be free until every one of her held in slavery in this country was liberated. Therefore I rejoice with you to-day, I am here for that purpose. But I am here for another purpose, and that is, to be a testimony to the fact, that although much has been done, the work is not all completed. The march of progress is going on, but there is much yet to be done. When Gen. Sherman had conquered Hood at Atlanta, he started on his march to the sea, and went down some 115 miles without meeting any organized resistance. Passing by Macon, he found "Joe Brown's pets" as they called them, who harassed the right wing of his army, there were quite a little skirmish, and several were killed. He started on, and from there he met no further resistance until he reached the vicinity of Savannah, my home. So it is with the army of progress. The great Anti-Slavery cause is moving on. It has overcome the great organized obstacles that were before it, as you have been told to-day, but is now being harassed; and the party that is harassing it is strong in the State where I live, Georgia; for we are still suffering there; we are still being shot down. Every kick, some account comes to us of another of our friends slain or taken out of jail and carried off to be heard of no more. Walker has buried in Lawrence, Ga., Dr. E. G. Graham and Thomas Hopkins Lee buried in Savannah grave-yard, and I could name fifty others who have been killed since the expulsion of the colored members from the Georgia Legislature, and these persecutions and murders are still going on. Why is this so? I might propound that question, through you, my friend, to the American people, for the highest tribunal that we can go before in this our beloved country to tell our grievances and ask for redress, is the American people, for when they answer the question, it is answered indeed; when they apply the remedy, it will be effectively applied for the removal of these evils.

When twenty-eight of us were expelled from the Georgia Legislature, we peacefully got up and came out, after protesting against the action of that body. It was really thought by the men who expelled us that we would make resistance there. The house was unusually crowded on that day, and I believe white men and colored men were there expecting that they would be called upon to take part in a conflict. But we had our plan arranged, to abide by the decision of that body, and then to appeal, through the press, to the people of the country, and to their servants, the Congress of the United States. We did so. We laid our memorial before Congress, through that Hon. Senator from Massachusetts, Senator Wilson, in half an hour the XLIst Congress was organized for its second session. They failed to act upon it, although they discussed it, and committee submitted all the evidence they could gather, making a good-sized volume of 200 pages. We thought we would go before the XLIst Congress, and that body had already organized before the subject was laid before them. We waited patiently until that Congress adjourned. The President summoned them again in extraordinary session for a time, and we still hoped that they would redress our wrongs and restore us to the seats from whence we had been unjustly expelled by a revolutionary body, who have really declared, by their action, that they will not, if they can help themselves, submit to the reconstruction laws. Congress has now adjourned, and our grievances have not yet been redressed.

I have talked with Congressmen in Washington about this matter, and some of them have said, "It is true, something ought to be done; we ought not to leave Georgia in this fix; we think you ought to be restored to your seats, but it seems the majority here are not disposed to touch Georgia matters. Some think enough has been done already." Since that decision has been made, the outrages have been renewed. After the inauguration of Gen. Grant, there came a lull over the States; everybody seemed to be waiting to see what he would do. We heard of no outrages for a short time. But just as soon as Congress adjourned and doing any thing, what do we hear? An old man, many years of age, one of the most venerable looking gentlemen I ever saw, a member of the Legislature, and an intelligent, honourable, Christian gentleman, who has lived in the State for 35 or 40 years, has been despatched to the South. Some one said to him, when he was leaving Washington to go home, "Are you going back to Jefferson?" "Yes." "I will never leave until it is accomplished. That is the faith within me, and that has brought me

on while you were in the Legislature, are you not afraid?" "Oh, no; I think they are only talking. There is scarcely a family in the county I have not attended. There is scarcely a man in the county for whom I have not spoken. I have gone to see the day when I can go to the South again." That man went home to Georgia, where he lived, and he is living where Ashburn and Walker and Parsons, and many others are living to-day. And for what? For claiming the rights, privileges and immunities guaranteed to every American citizen.

One of the most eminent lawyers of the United States Senate said to me, "Mr. Simms, I do not see that we can do much more for Georgia or for the colored people. We have set you free, and you must take care of yourselves, as we do. We cannot legislate any further. We must wait patiently until public opinion and the sentiment of the white race have reached that point that they will bring a moral effect to bear upon these outrages and thus remove them." It reminded me of an incident in the Mexican war, which I have read about. A captain of artillery was sent to silence a battery. After plying his battery for some time, finding that his company suffered a good deal, he went to the commander and said, "We cannot hold that place any longer; we cannot silence that battery." The General said, "I don't know but you have done all you can do, but try a little more grape, Capt. Bragg." Now, Congress has done a great deal, and may be they thought they were suffering in public opinion, and that, if they gave us any further legislation, the pressure would be too great for them to stand. But all we asked them to do was to try just a little more of what they had already done, and I believe that would have effected the purpose. If this is so, I really think that some of the arguments that have been made by this honorable body in years past are necessary again, for a time, at least, to bring Congress up to that advanced standard that the nation has reached to-day.

I am not ungrateful for all I have enjoyed, for as I say, I rejoice. If I did not get back into my seat in the Legislature, as I expected to, and as I promised the Democrats I would, I found there was something else to do, and I started off on the next best line. It was, perhaps, a great deal for me to attempt, but I sat down and wrote my papers, got them endorsed, and went and asked the President to give me one of the best offices in Georgia. (Laughter and applause). And I only asked him to give it to me, but I pressed my claims with all the power and energy I possess, and brought all the efforts to bear upon him that I could. I carried the outer works pretty hand-somely. I got the Postmaster General's consent, thoroughly convinced him, and went and opened on the President. He gave me a cordial reception, and listened to what I had to say. He didn't tell me whether he would or wouldn't when I left him, (laughing), but I have heard since that he has said he couldn't sign my commission. I may not get the office, I may not go into it just yet; but at least I think I have made a pretty good effort for it. I never could have made that effort but for the help you have given me, my friends. When I thought of you, I said to myself, for me, I tell you I need no one to speak up and ask for the office; and I really believe that if I had thought of you, I did not work with quite as much faith in the accomplishment of my purpose as I should have worked, and as I shall next time. But I have achieved at least something. I shall go back home, God helping me, after having enjoyed this privilege, one of the greatest. I have ever yet enjoyed in my life, of being with you here to-day, I shall go back to Georgia and tell the people, and especially the young men: "You know all I have suffered down here in Georgia among you. I have been up to Washington, I have talked with Congressmen and Cabinet officers, and with the President, and I actually asked him to give me the Savannah Post Office—one of the most important offices in the State; and if I have done this, having dropped my shackles, which I had worn so long and weary, only the other day, if God spares my life twenty or thirty years longer, and I do not see any of our friends slain or taken out of jail and carried off to be heard of no more. (Applause). If I have done nothing else, I have done this much.

I would not interfere with the President's plans, and sometimes I think he has an idea of putting a better position than that (laughter), and I am sure, and shall be busy until he tells me what it is preparing myself to take hold of. I may not be able to do it; but whatever he may do, I shall be ready to take hold of whatever my country, through its rulers, says it has for me to do, let it be in the humblest or most exalted position, that my capacity and ability enable me to fill.

I learn by recent accounts from home, that our people are much depressed. They are weary and disengaged by the action of those around them, and for the want, perhaps, of that cheering intelligence that might be given to them. The masses of them are out of the way, where they cannot know what the world is doing, or what has been done for them. The leading colored men cannot go out into the rural districts; they have not freedom of access there, as yet. They can go on to the lines of the railroads, they can go to the cities, and speak with some comparative safety; and in such places the colored people are doing comparatively well to what the masses are doing. I long to go out again among my people in the country, twenty, thirty or forty miles from the cities and railroads, and speak to them freely and openly, as I have a right to do, of what is best for them to do, and encourage them to labor, by assuring them that it is the determination of a great portion of this country and of the government, that they shall reap the reward of their labors. This can only be done by our having proper protection. It is done by us, as far as we can, to go to the slaves. I have a right to do, of what is best for them to do, and encourage them to labor, by assuring them that it is the determination of a great portion of this country and of the government, that they shall reap the reward of their labors. This can only be done by our having proper protection. It is done by us, as far as we can, to go to the slaves. 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